

Reeves Jollivette Chambers, a great educator, historian, and civil rights activist in Miami's African American community. Fran passed away at the age of 89 after a lengthy struggle with Alzheimer's disease. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends at this most difficult time. She is survived by her daughters, Regina Jollivette Frazier and Cleo Leontine Jollivette; son, Cyrus M. Jollivette; her brother, Garth C. Reeves; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. Tragically, Fran lost her first husband, Cyrus M. Jollivette, Sr., to a storm in January 1960. In July 1963, she married James R. Chambers, who passed away in June 2000.

Fran was born on November 13, 1921, in Overtown, Miami's historic African American neighborhood. She was the sixth of five surviving children born to the late Henry E.S. Reeves and Rachel Jane Cooper Reeves, who had emigrated from Nassau, Bahamas to Miami in April 1919 and founded The Miami Times, Florida's oldest Black newspaper. Fran graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in 1938 before receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree summa cum laude from Bennett College in 1942 and a Master of Arts degree from New York University in 1959. In addition, she later studied at the University of Miami, University of Florida, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) University, Florida Atlantic University, and Barry University, earning more graduate credits than required for her doctorate.

Fran was a true educator. For more than 37 years, she taught and guided students at Dunbar Elementary School, Miami Jackson Senior High School, Continuing Opportunities for Purposeful Education (COPE) Center North, and Holmes Elementary School as a teacher, reading specialist, counselor, and principal. During this time, Fran also dedicated her time and energy to numerous causes as a volunteer for the March of Dimes and the American Heart Association, JESCA board chair, a board member of Senior Centers of Dade County, and a member of the American Association of University Women. In the 1970s and 1980s, she was a member of the Florida State Board of Optometry and the League of Women Voters.

After retiring from the Dade County Public Schools in July 1979, Fran continued giving back to her community and traveled the world, visiting over 50 countries and six continents. She was a lifelong member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a platinum member of The Links, Inc., and a charter member and past president of the MRS Club, a six-decades-old group of friends. Fran was also a member of the Daughters of the King at Incarnation Episcopal Church.

Almost 30 years ago, Fran first dreamed of publishing a book that would preserve and share the history of Miami's Black pioneers. Her vision was realized in *Linkages and Legacies*, a 120-page, hardbound coffee table book chronicling the works, deeds, and experiences of Miami's Black pioneers. Published in March 2010 by The Links, Inc., Greater Miami Chapter, through the non-profit *Linkages and Legacies, Inc.*, this publication was distributed for free as a gift to the community. Furthermore, Fran's concept served as the inspiration for the AT&T African American History Calendar, which was created 17 years ago. These important works would not have been

possible without the efforts of individuals like Fran, who have dedicated their lives to serving their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the privilege and pleasure of knowing Fran and her family personally. The Miami community has lost one of its great pioneers, and she will be dearly missed. Thanks to Fran's many contributions, however, her legacy of education, compassion, and love will live on for generations to come.

IN MEMORY OF VIRGIL SCHEIDT

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart to honor the tremendous life and legacy of Virgil Scheidt from my hometown of Columbus, Indiana.

Mr. Scheidt lived a long and blessed life full of family, hard work, and community service. On February 20, 1949, he married the love of his life, Bettie. He began his career as a farmer, and he and Bettie owned and operated their own farm for more than thirty years. But as much as he loved farming, Mr. Scheidt felt called to do more for his community, and in 1960, he was elected Bartholomew County Treasurer. After winning re-election four years later, he was also elected President of the Association of Indiana County Officials, and went on to be elected as a national director of the National County Officials in 1967.

Mr. Scheidt was elected chairman of the Bartholomew County Republican Party in 1965, where he served for 33 years. After serving as district chairman for several years, he was ultimately elected chairman of the Indiana State Republican Party in 1989. His involvement in local, state, and national politics spanned decades and included such honors as serving as an elector of the Indiana Electoral College in the 2000 presidential election, and attending and serving as a delegate for numerous national Republican conventions.

Virgil Scheidt was also an entrepreneur and businessman. Besides his life on the farm, he founded a real estate brokerage firm, and in 1974, was appointed to the Indiana Real Estate Commission where he served as a member for fifteen years and as its chairman from 1983 to 1985. He was named Realtor of the Year in 1987 by the Columbus Board of Realtors and was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by them in 1999.

Despite his many business and political activities, Mr. Scheidt was still a dedicated and active member of his community. He was a member of the Columbus Rotary Club, Harrison Lake Country Club, the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Columbia Club. He was also an active and lifelong member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Columbus. His legacy of service was honored by three different governors when each of them gave him the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash Award, and additionally he received the Distinguished Hoosier Award in 1985 from Governor Robert Orr.

While his loss will be deeply felt, we find hope in the Good Book which tells us that "the Lord is close to the brokenhearted." I offer my deepest condolences, to Mr. Scheidt's beloved

family: wife Bettie; sons Randy and Warren; daughters Deborah and Christie; grandchildren Matthew, Leslie, Travis, Zachary, Allison, Katie, Todd, Emily, Nicholas, Olivia, and Madeline; great-grandson Harrison; as well as his numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins. May you find comfort in the eternal hope we find in our faith, and encouragement that Virgil Scheidt will be remembered and honored in the hearts of Hoosiers for his life of service for years to come.

CELEBRATING MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to commemorate the Bicentennial and 201st anniversary of Mexican Independence Day, which occurred on September 16, 2011. As Mexicans everywhere celebrate the historic independence of Mexico from Spanish rule, this momentous day is significant because it represents a sign of justice and equality—rights valued and protected in our great country of the United States. It also represents the day when Mexico was able to begin its quest for freedom for the people of that beautiful and spirited country. Our two countries will continue to make sure that the rights of the people come first.

Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on the date that Father Miguel Hidalgo y Castillo, a priest in Dolores, Guanajuato, frustrated with Spanish rule, rang the church bell to gather the people of the town. Hidalgo ignited a fire among the listeners, requesting that the people of Mexico join him in rising up against Spanish rule. Just as the soldiers in the American Revolutionary War fought on behalf of our country, these courageous, patriotic men fought to gain the independence of their beloved Mexico. This event known today as Grito de Dolores or "Cry of Dolores" is joyfully celebrated every year on September 16 by Mexicans all over the world. The red, white, and green flag is proudly displayed on this day during festivities.

El Centro Comunitario Mexicano, or as it is popularly known, CECOMEX, is one of the oldest active, not-for-profit organizations for Mexican Americans in my Congressional District and the City of New York. Under the leadership of Executive Director, Sandra Perez, it has worked independently as a community organization in my beloved East Harlem community, catering to the needs of our newcomers. I want to publicly thank them for all their work. I would also like to commend Carlos M. Sada, Consul General of Mexico in New York for all his hard work on behalf of Mexico. He continues to assist and protect the citizens of Mexico while facilitating trade and extending a cordial friendship with New York.

The model of Father Miguel Hidalgo-Costilla's resolve and sacrifice for independence and liberty makes him an icon for what beleaguered peoples of the world need most today in their leaders. His martyrdom for Mexico and for the future of their republic can provide light upon all communities. Let's pay respects to those courageous men who fought on behalf of Mexico to help position the country where it is today.